

**TOWN OF LA POINTE
PUBLIC HEARING: SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR MILLER FARM RD.
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2010
At 5:00 PM At Town Hall**

Called to Order at 5:07 PM

Town Board Members present: Beth Fischlowitz, Jim Patterson, Greg Nelson, Ham Ross, Larry Whalen

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to hear public comment on the subject of a Special Assessment for work done to Miller Farm Rd.

Evan Erickson began by saying that he thought the Town road crew did a great job on Miller Farm Rd.

Mary Ross asked what has been decided regarding the Special Assessment.

Greg Nelson responded that the Resolution to lay a road (Miller Farm Rd.) was specific in that regard.

Ham Ross asked Keith Sowl for the final cost of the road.

Keith Sowl responded that the cost for the purposes of the Special Assessment would be \$44,496.27; he further stated that there were a couple of things yet to do, so that an assessment of \$46,000 would be adequate to complete the job. [Any of this that is not spent can be deducted from the Assessment before the tax bill is sent out.]

Ham Ross asked if this figure met, exceeded or went below the estimate.

Keith Sowl replied that the overall cost was \$220,000; the estimate was \$100,000.

Arnie Nelson questioned the fact that the cost was \$220,000 yet the Assessment is for only \$46,000.

Greg Nelson replied that all fees were hypothetical when the original motions were made regarding the road.

Arnie Nelson asked if a formula can be set for future road development in order to more accurately charge the parcel holders.

Greg Nelson replied that he has always felt that if the laying of a road is in the best interest of the Town's people, then there should be no Special Assessment for it. He further pointed out that at the time the Miller Farm Rd. project was being considered, there was much discussion about the precedent that was being set.

Beth Fischlowitz added that the gravel that was used at Miller Farm Rd. was already paid for by taxpayers; however, she questioned how long the Town can continue to use the gravel.

Ham Ross suggested that in the future road projects should be put up for bids.

Greg Nelson explained that at this time the Town is considering lay a road on Town-owned property at a cul-de-sac off Mondamin Trail, and that project will be handled differently than Miller Farm Rd. was. He also feels that for the current proposed laying of a road (Big Arn's Rd./White Pine Rd., to benefit the Town, it should go all the way through and connect with Miller Farm Rd.

Beth Alsgaard asked if she could have some gravel for her place. Consensus answer: no.

Greg Nelson stated that timeliness was a factor: could a contractor have completed the Miller Farm Rd. project in a timely way.

Arnie Nelson stated that people on Kramer Lane wish to have work done on their road: may they have gravel from the Town?

Ham Ross pointed out that this is a Public Hearing for a Special Assessment for Miller Farm Rd.

Beth Fischlowitz said that the "soft" costs were \$46,000: that's the Assessment to be split by 19 people over ten years.

Greg Nelson said that laying of roads is probably going to continue to be done on a case-by-case basis and that we have to hang on to the gravel for maintenance of primary & secondary roads.

Beth Fischlowitz suggested a Town Board Workshop for the purpose of creating a plan for dealing with the Island's remaining "private" roads.

Robin Trinko-Russell asked if interest would be charged over the ten-year period.

Consensus answer: no

Motion to adjourn: Beth Fischlowitz/Ham Ross 5A MC

Adjourned at 5:32 PM

Submitted by Patty Hobin, Town Clerk

Approved as submitted on 12/14/10

Patty Hobin, Town Clerk